

[redacted] Secret A

## ARAB STATES: Summit Peace Plan

*The provisions of the plan outlined yesterday by the Arab Summit represent maximum Arab demands on most key issues, but they also implicitly recognize Israel and provide for a UN Security Council role in the peace process. The Arab leaders apparently view the results of the meeting as a first step toward an attempt to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute through negotiations.* [redacted]

The final statement issued by the Arab leaders calls for Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967, the removal of Israeli settlements in those territories, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital. The plan provides for the UN Security Council to guarantee peace "for all states of the region"--an implicit recognition of Israel--and reaffirms the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [redacted]

The statement took note of the Lebanese request for a removal of the Arab League - mandated Syrian troops from Lebanon but made the departure conditional on Israeli withdrawal. Arab officials are to be sent to Washington and other major capitals to explain the Arab League position. [redacted]

Comment: The outcome of the Summit is notable for its unanimity. The PLO, Syria, Iraq, and Algeria--members of the hardline Arab camp--apparently approved the statement together with Arab moderates. The hardline Arabs' previous opposition to even an implicit recognition of Israel was responsible for the failure of the summit scheduled for last November. [redacted]

Acceptance of a UN role in the peace process appears to bring the hardliners closer to recognition of Israel and puts all the Summit participants on record as favoring negotiation rather than armed conflict as a means of resolving the Middle East problems. UN participation, however, is a concession to the hardliners, especially Syria, because it would allow the Soviets to take part in the peace negotiations. [redacted]

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[REDACTED]

The statement calls for the Summit followup committee to be informed of the position of the US "as announced in the last few days"--a commitment to take President Reagan's initiative into account in formulating moves toward a resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. [REDACTED]

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According to an Arab official, the leaders at Fez shared a sense of "getting on with serious negotiations." He reports a private consensus that Syria must withdraw from Lebanon. It is these kinds of private understandings underlying the statement that perhaps are more important than the specific provisions of the plan. [REDACTED]  
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